

Amendments to the Claims

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel in which a lower electrode and an upper electrode are stacked so as to be spaced from each other by spacers, the transparent conductive film being provided on an electrode substrate of at least one of the electrodes and thereby forming the electrode, wherein

the transparent conductive film has, in its surface shape, an arithmetic mean roughness (Ra) within a range of $0.4 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Ra} \leq 4.0 \text{ nm}$ and a root-mean-square roughness (Rms) within a range of $0.6 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Rms} \leq 3.0 \text{ nm}$, and

given a center line depth R_p and a maximum roughness R_{max} with respect to the surface shape, a parameter R_p/R_{max} representing the surface shape is set to 0.55 or less, whereby a cross section of grain aggregates forming the surface shape is formed into a trapezoidal or rectangular shape.

17. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel in which a lower electrode and an upper electrode are stacked so as to be spaced from each other by spacers, the transparent conductive film being provided on an electrode substrate of at least one of the electrodes and thereby forming the electrode, wherein

the transparent conductive film is composed of an indium oxide - tin oxide film and a mean crystal grain size (R) within a plane of a metallic oxide observed at a surface of the transparent conductive film is within a range of $40 \text{ nm} \leq R \leq 200 \text{ nm}$.

18. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel in which a lower electrode and an upper electrode are stacked so as to be spaced from each other by spacers, the transparent conductive film being provided on an electrode substrate of at least one of the electrodes and thereby forming the electrode, wherein

the transparent conductive film is composed of a fluorine- or antimony-added tin oxide film and a mean crystal grain size (R) within a plane of a metallic oxide observed at a surface of the transparent conductive film is within a range of $80 \text{ nm} \leq R \leq 400 \text{ nm}$.

19. (Previously presented) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 16, wherein the transparent conductive film is composed of an indium oxide - tin oxide film and has, in its surface shape, an arithmetic mean roughness (Ra) within a range of $0.4 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Ra} \leq 3.0 \text{ nm}$ and a root-mean-square roughness (Rms) within a range of $0.6 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Rms} \leq 2.0 \text{ nm}$.

20. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 17, wherein the transparent conductive film is composed of an indium oxide - tin oxide film and has, in its surface shape, an arithmetic mean roughness (Ra) within a range of $0.4 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Ra} \leq 3.0 \text{ nm}$ and a root-mean-square roughness (Rms) within a range of $0.6 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Rms} \leq 2.0 \text{ nm}$.

21. (Previously presented) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 16, wherein the transparent conductive film is composed of a fluorine- or antimony-added tin oxide film and has, in its surface shape, an arithmetic mean roughness (Ra) within a range of $0.4 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Ra} \leq 4.0 \text{ nm}$ and a root-mean-square roughness (Rms) within a range of $0.6 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Rms} \leq 3.0 \text{ nm}$.

22. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 18, wherein the transparent conductive film is composed of a fluorine- or antimony-added tin oxide film and has, in its surface shape, an arithmetic mean roughness (Ra) within a range of $0.4 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Ra} \leq 4.0 \text{ nm}$ and a root-mean-square roughness (Rms) within a range of $0.6 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Rms} \leq 3.0 \text{ nm}$.

23. (Cancel)

24. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 17, wherein given a center line depth R_p and a maximum roughness R_{max} with respect to the surface shape, a parameter (R_p/R_{max}) representing the surface

shape is set to 0.55 or less, whereby a cross section of grain aggregates forming the surface shape is formed into a trapezoidal or rectangular shape.

25. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 18, wherein given a center line depth R_p and a maximum roughness R_{max} with respect to the surface shape, a parameter (R_p/R_{max}) representing the surface shape is set to 0.55 or less, whereby a cross section of grain aggregates forming the surface shape is formed into a trapezoidal or rectangular shape.

26. (Cancel)

27. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 20, wherein given a center line depth R_p and a maximum roughness R_{max} with respect to the surface shape, a parameter (R_p/R_{max}) representing the surface shape is set to 0.55 or less, whereby a cross section of grain aggregates forming the surface shape is formed into a trapezoidal or rectangular shape.

28. (Previously presented) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 16, wherein the transparent conductive film is formed by a coating or printing process with a sol-gel material.

29. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 17, wherein the transparent conductive film is formed by a coating or printing process with a sol-gel material.

30. (Previously presented) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 19, wherein the transparent conductive film is formed by a coating or printing process with a sol-gel material.

31. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 20, wherein the transparent conductive film is formed by a coating or printing process with a sol-gel material.

32. (Cancel)

33. (Previously presented) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 16 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

34. (Withdrawn) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 17 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

35. (Withdrawn) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 18 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

36. (Previously presented) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 19 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

37. (Withdrawn) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 20 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

38. (Cancel)

39. (Withdrawn) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 24 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

40. (Cancel)

41. (Withdrawn) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 27 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

42. (Previously presented) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 28 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

43. (Withdrawn) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 29 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

44. (Previously presented) A transparent touch panel in which the transparent conductive film according to Claim 30 is provided on an electrode substrate of at least one electrode out of the lower electrode and the upper electrode and thereby forming the electrode.

45. (Cancel)

46. (Previously presented) A method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel in which a lower electrode and an upper electrode are stacked so as to be spaced from each other by spacers, the transparent conductive film being provided on an electrode substrate of at least one of the electrodes and thereby forming the electrode, the method comprising:

forming an indium oxide - tin oxide film so that the film has, in its surface shape, an arithmetic mean roughness (Ra) within a range of $0.4 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Ra} \leq 3.0 \text{ nm}$ and a root-mean-square roughness (Rms) within a range of $0.6 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Rms} \leq 2.0 \text{ nm}$, by a coating or printing process using a sol-gel material, where at least an organometallic compound constituting the sol-gel material is composed of indium and tin and has a constituent weight ratio of indium to tin that $5 \text{ wt\%} \leq \{\text{Sn}/(\text{In}+\text{Sn})\} \times 100 \leq 15 \text{ wt\%}$.

47. (Withdrawn) A method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel in which a lower electrode and an upper electrode are stacked so as to be spaced from each other by spacers, the transparent conductive film being provided on an electrode substrate of at least one of the electrodes and thereby forming the electrode, the method comprising:

forming an indium oxide - tin oxide film so that a mean crystal grain size (R) within a plane of a metallic oxide observed at a surface of the film is within a range of $40 \text{ nm} \leq R \leq 200 \text{ nm}$, by a coating or printing process using a sol-gel material, where at least an organometallic compound constituting the sol-gel material is composed of indium and tin and has a constituent weight ratio of indium to tin that $5 \text{ wt\%} \leq \{\text{Sn}/(\text{In}+\text{Sn})\} \times 100 \leq 15 \text{ wt\%}$.

48. (Previously presented) A method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel in which a lower electrode and an upper electrode are stacked so as to be spaced from each other by spacers, the transparent conductive film being provided on an electrode substrate of at least one of the electrodes and thereby forming the electrode, the method comprising:

after coating or printing with a sol-gel material by a coating or printing process using the sol-gel material, performing an initially drying process; then performing an oxidation burning process at a temperature increasing rate of $40^\circ\text{C} - 60^\circ\text{C}$ per minute within a temperature range of $200^\circ\text{C} - 400^\circ\text{C}$; and subsequently performing a reduction burning process, thereby forming an indium oxide - tin oxide film so that the film has, in its surface shape, an arithmetic mean roughness (Ra) within a range of $0.4 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Ra} \leq 3.0 \text{ nm}$ and a root-mean-square roughness (Rms) within a range of $0.6 \text{ nm} \leq \text{Rms} \leq 2.0 \text{ nm}$.

49. (Withdrawn) A method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel in which a lower electrode and an upper electrode are stacked so as to be spaced from each other by spacers, the transparent conductive film being provided on an electrode substrate of at least one of the electrodes and thereby forming the electrode, the method comprising:

after coating or printing with a sol-gel material by a coating or printing process using the sol-gel material, performing an initially drying process; then performing an oxidation burning process at a temperature increasing rate of 40°C - 60°C per minute within a temperature range of 200°C - 400°C; and subsequently performing a reduction burning process, thereby forming an indium oxide - tin oxide film so that a mean crystal grain size (R) within a plane of a metallic oxide observed at a surface of the film is within a range of $40\text{ nm} \leq R \leq 200\text{ nm}$.

50. (Previously presented) A method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 46, wherein when the transparent conductive film is formed by the coating or printing process using the sol-gel material, the method comprising:

after coating or printing with the sol-gel material, performing an initially drying process; then performing an oxidation burning process at a temperature increasing rate of 40°C - 60°C per minute within a temperature range of 200°C - 400°C; and subsequently performing a reduction burning process, thereby forming the transparent conductive film.

51. (Withdrawn) A method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 47, wherein when the transparent conductive film is formed by the coating or printing process using the sol-gel material, the method comprising:

after coating or printing with the sol-gel material, performing an initially drying process; then performing an oxidation burning process at a temperature increasing rate of 40°C - 60°C per minute within a temperature range of 200°C - 400°C; and subsequently performing a reduction burning process, thereby forming the transparent conductive film.

52. (Previously presented) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel fabricated by the method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 46.

53. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel fabricated by the method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 47.

54. (Previously presented) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel fabricated by the method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 48.

55. (Withdrawn) A transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel fabricated by the method for fabricating a transparent conductive film for use in a transparent touch panel according to Claim 49.